

In the claims:

1. **(currently amended)** A process for preparing a lithium amide composition, comprising the steps of: (1) contacting lithium metal with ammonia to form lithium bronze; and (2) reacting the lithium bronze with a 1,3-diene or an arylolefin in the presence of a solvent, thereby providing a lithium amide composition; wherein the temperature is maintained between -33 and -78 °C ~~at or below the boiling point of ammonia~~.
2. **(previously presented)** The process of claim 1, wherein the lithium metal is brought into contact with the ammonia by charging the ammonia to the lithium metal.
3. **(previously presented)** The process of claim 1, wherein the 1,3-diene or arylolefin is butadiene, isoprene, piperylene, dimethylbutadiene, hexadiene, styrene, methyl styrene, divinylbenzene, naphthalene or anthracene.
4. **(previously presented)** The process of claim 1, wherein the 1,3-diene or arylolefin is styrene, methyl styrene or divinylbenzene.
5. **(previously presented)** The process of claim 1, wherein the solvent is pentane, cyclopentane, hexane, heptane, octane, cyclohexane, toluene, xylene, cumene, ethyl benzene, tetralin, diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran (THF), 2-methyl-THF, tetrahydropyran, diisopropyl ether, dibutyl ether, dioxan, methyl-tert-butyl ether or glycol ether.
6. **(previously presented)** The process of claim 1, wherein the lithium metal is contacted with four to five molar equivalents of anhydrous ammonia.
7. **(canceled)**
8. **(previously presented)** The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of removing excess ammonia by distillation at reduced pressure at a temperature between -33 and -78 °C; wherein the lithium amide composition has a molar ratio of lithium amide to ammonia greater than 1 : 0.5 ( $\text{LiNH}_2$  :  $\text{NH}_3$ ).
9. **(previously presented)** A lithium amide composition prepared by the process of claim 1.

10. **(previously presented)** The process of claim 1, wherein the temperature of both steps is maintained between -35 and -65 °C.

11. **(previously presented)** The process of claim 1, wherein the temperature of both steps is maintained at -40 °C.

12. **(previously presented)** The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of removing excess ammonia by distillation at reduced pressure at a temperature between -33 and -78 °C; wherein the lithium amide composition has a molar ratio of lithium amide to ammonia greater than 1 : 1 ( $\text{LiNH}_2 : \text{NH}_3$ ).

13. **(previously presented)** The process of claim 3, wherein the solvent is pentane, cyclopentane, hexane, heptane, octane, cyclohexane, toluene, xylene, cumene, ethyl benzene, tetralin, diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran (THF), 2-methyl-THF, tetrahydropyran, diisopropyl ether, dibutyl ether, dioxan, methyl-tert-butyl ether or glycol ether.

14. **(previously presented)** The process of claim 4, wherein the solvent is pentane, cyclopentane, hexane, heptane, octane, cyclohexane, toluene, xylene, cumene, ethyl benzene, tetralin, diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran (THF), 2-methyl-THF, tetrahydropyran, diisopropyl ether, dibutyl ether, dioxan, methyl-tert-butyl ether or glycol ether.

Claims 15-18 **(canceled)**

19. **(previously presented)** The lithium amide composition of claim 9, wherein the lithium amide composition has a molar ratio of lithium amide to ammonia greater than 1 : 0.5 ( $\text{LiNH}_2 : \text{NH}_3$ ).

20. **(previously presented)** The lithium amide composition of claim 9, wherein the lithium amide composition has a molar ratio of lithium amide to ammonia greater than 1 : 1 ( $\text{LiNH}_2 : \text{NH}_3$ ).